



Go to School for a Day in Namibia!



Namibia is a large country in Africa. It is home to two million people. It is also home to many kinds of animals like zebra, elephants, giraffes, and springbok.





My name is Elissa. I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Namibia. I was a teacher at Waterberg Primary School. Here I am with two of my favorite first graders, Vijanda and Kaejova.



Waterberg Primary School is probably like your school in a many ways. It has classrooms, a principal's office, a library, a computer lab, and a cafeteria.

But there is one thing that might be different from your school. Children don't just go to classes here, but they eat, wash, play, and sleep here too!





At night, children sleep in buildings called blocks. Each block has a bathroom, cold water showers, and flushing toilets. The blocks also have big sinks and clotheslines, where children can wash their clothes by hand and hang them out to dry.

After breakfast they head to the school for the morning assembly. At assembly they sing the national anthem of Namibia. Let's listen to them sing!



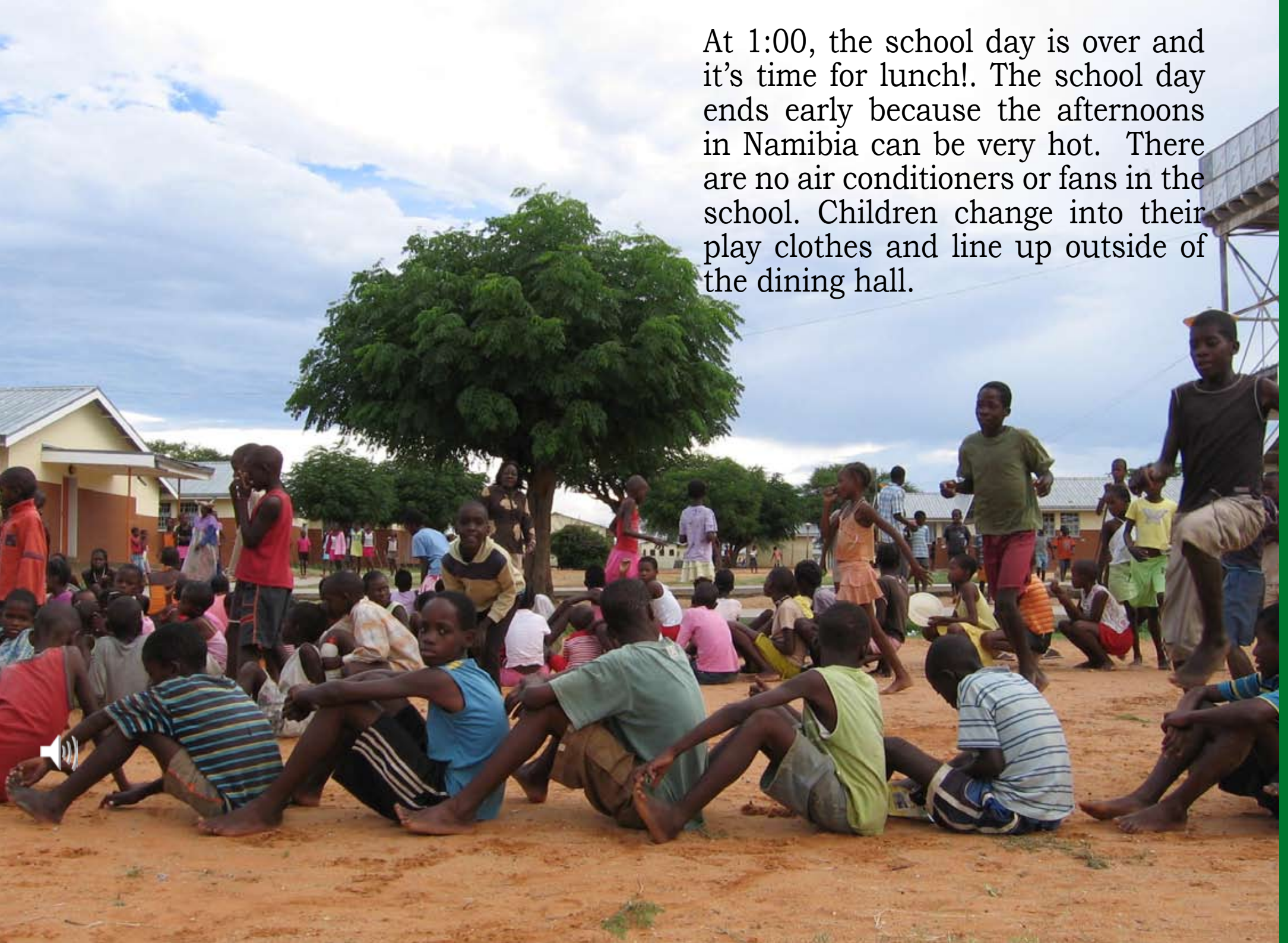
Now it is time for the school day to begin! Until fourth grade, children learn all subjects in their own language, called *Otjiherero*. After fourth grade, they are taught only in English.





In the computer lab, the children are learning how to type their names, draw pictures, and play games on the computer.

At 1:00, the school day is over and it's time for lunch!. The school day ends early because the afternoons in Namibia can be very hot. There are no air conditioners or fans in the school. Children change into their play clothes and line up outside of the dining hall.



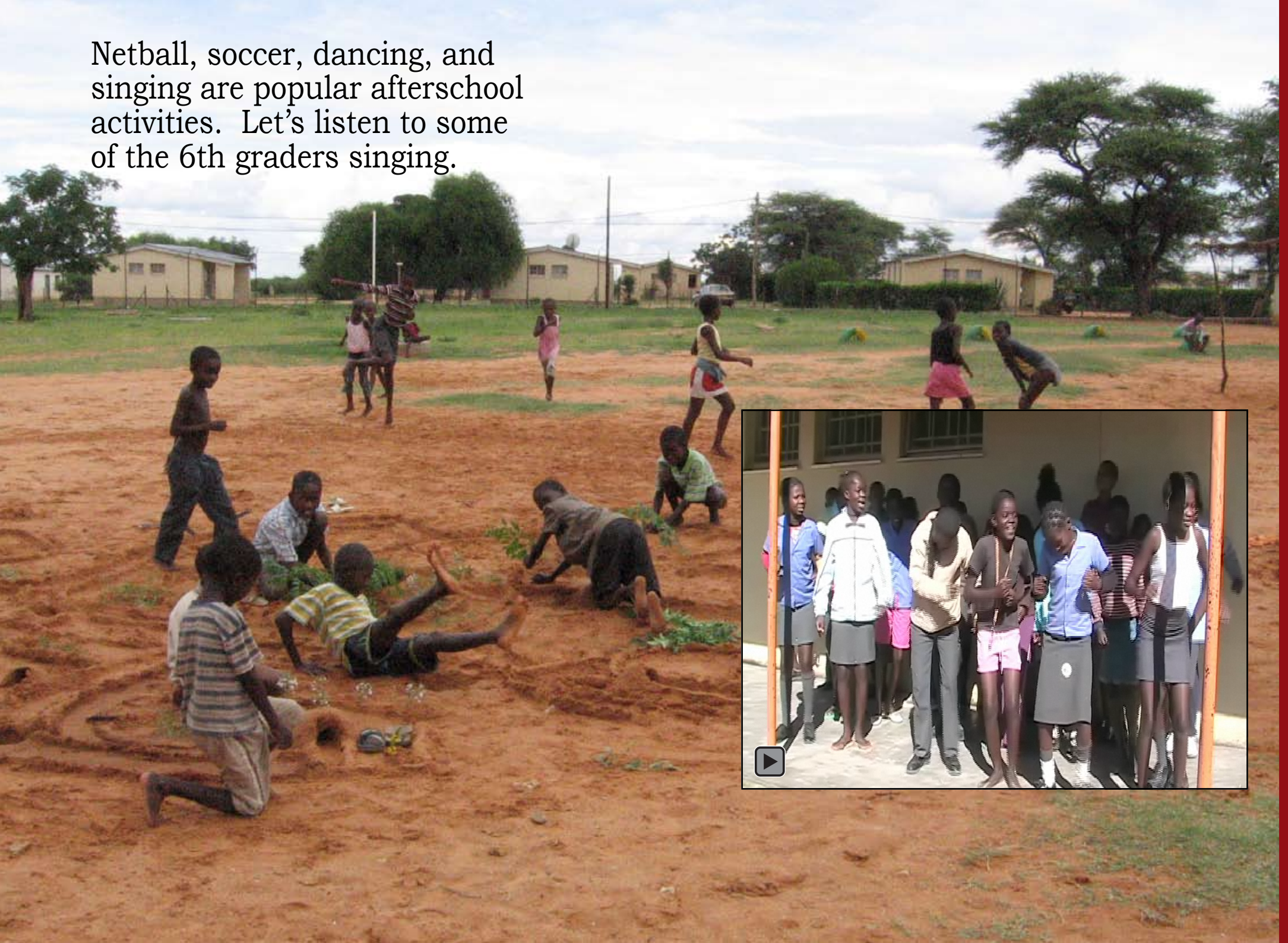
Today, they will eat meat and bread for lunch. As a special treat, they sometimes eat apples with their lunch, too.

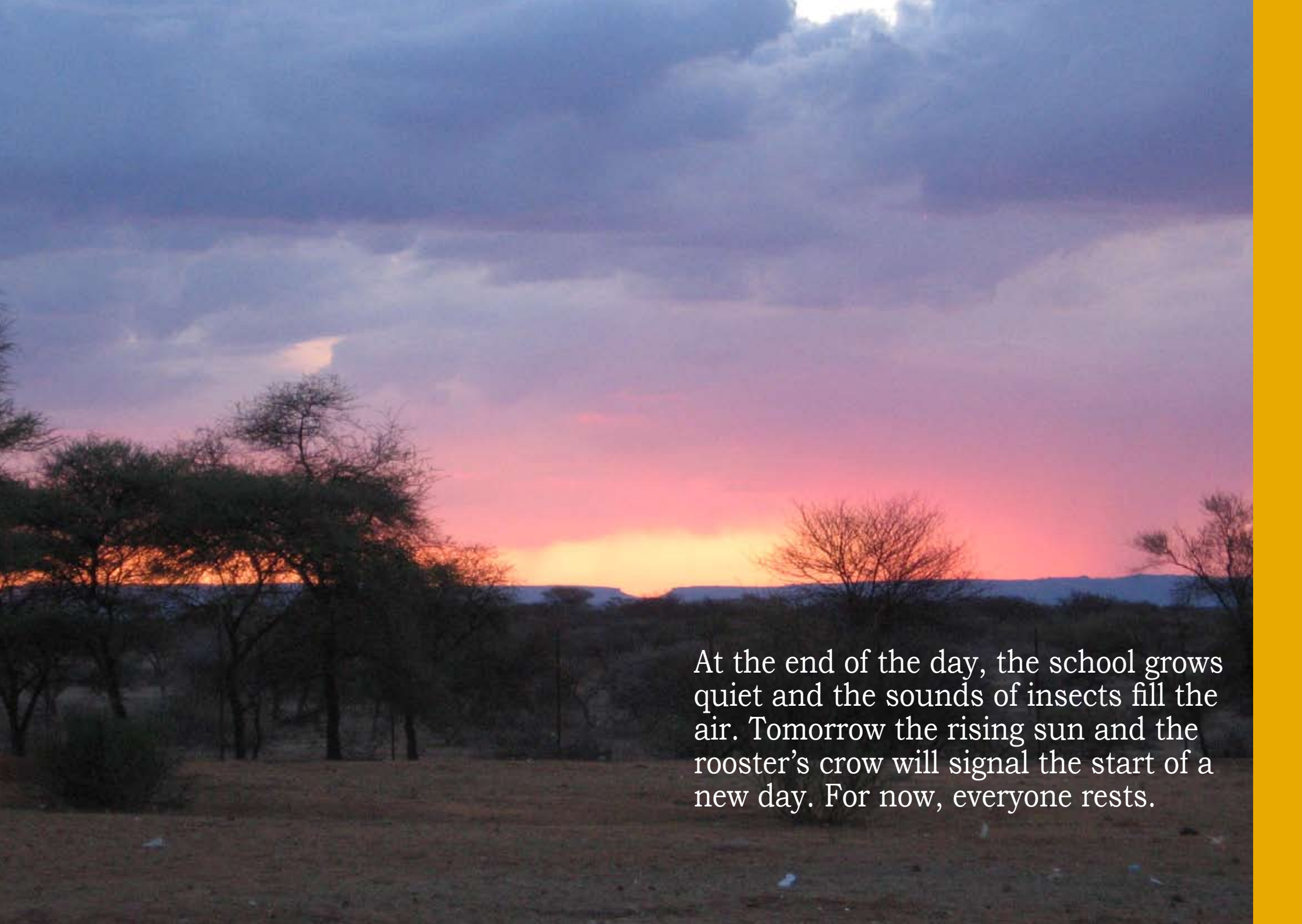





After lunch, children line up for tea. The youngest children always eat and drink first. Older children help serve. When the younger children finish their tea, they hand their cups off to the children who are behind them in line.

Netball, soccer, dancing, and singing are popular afterschool activities. Let's listen to some of the 6th graders singing.



A photograph of a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun visible on the horizon. Silhouetted trees and bushes are in the foreground. A solid yellow vertical bar is on the right side of the image.

At the end of the day, the school grows quiet and the sounds of insects fill the air. Tomorrow the rising sun and the rooster's crow will signal the start of a new day. For now, everyone rests.

A group of African children are looking out from a window of a school building. The children are of various ages and are smiling and waving. The building has a light-colored wall and a wooden frame around the window. The background shows some greenery and a clear sky.

Thank you for visiting our school, and
kaende nawa, go well and goodbye.



PAUL D. COVERDELL

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